Office - Supreme Court, U.S.
FILED
NOV 19 1982
ALEXANDER L. STEVAS,
CLERK

No. 82-861

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1982

ALFRED CARPENTIER,

Petitioner,

against

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

JAMES A. PASCARELLA,
Attorney for Petitioner,
1301 Franklin Avenue,
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-1134

Appellate Printing Co., Inc., (212) 480-9180

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
OCTOBER TERM, 1982
No.

ALFRED CARPENTIER,

Petitioner,

—against—

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

---

QUESTIONS PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

1. Whether the Government's conduct in its ABSCAM investigation violated petitioner's right to due process of law guaranteed to him by the Constitution of the United States.

2. Whether, if such law enforcement techniques as those employed in the ABSCAM investigation are allowed, a judicial warrant is required to be obtained by the Government.

3. Whether the petitioner was entrapped as a matter of law.

4. Whether there was misjoinder and the petitioner should have been severed from the trial of his co-defendant.

5. Whether, because of all the publicity received by the ABSCAM investigation itself and the subsequent prosecutions, there should have been an individualized, *in camera voir dire* of the jury.

PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDING

The caption of the case contains the names of all the parties.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Questions Presented for Review	i
Parties to the Proceeding	ii
Table of Contents	iii
Table of Authorities	iii
Opinions in the Courts Below	1
Grounds on Which Jurisdiction is Invoked	1
Constitutional Provisions and Statutes Involved	1
Statement of the Case	1
Reasons for the Allowance of the Writ	6
Conclusion	12
Appendix A	1a
Appendix B	16a

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

CASES CITED:

Brown v. United States, 602 F.2d 1073 (2d Cir. 1979)	8
Greene v. United States, 454 F.2d 783 (9th Cir. 1971)	8
Hampton v. United States, 425 U.S. 484 (1976)	7
Murphy v. Florida, 421 U.S. 794 (1975)	9

CASES CITED: Page

Olmstead v. United States,
227 U.S. 438 ..... 6, 7

Sherman v. United States,
356 U.S. 369 (1958) 7, 10

Sorrells v. United States,
287 U.S. 435 (1932) 7, 10

United States v. Jannotti,
501 F.2d 1183 at 1193 (E.D.Pa. 1980) 8

United States v. Johnson,
478 F.2d 1129 (5th Cir. 1973) 11

United States v. Kelly,
Slip Op., filed May 13, 1982, at 24 8

United States v. Meyers,
635 F.2d 932 (2d Cir. 1980) 2, 6

United States v. Puma,
548 F.2d 508 (5th Cir. 1977) 8

United States v. Reifsteck,
535 F.2d 1030 (8th Cir. 1976) 8

United States v. Russell,
411 U.S. 423 ..... 6, 10

United States v. Twigg,
588 F.2d 373 (3rd Cir. 1978) 8

United States v. Wilson,
500 F.2d 715 (5th Cir.),
cert. denied, 420 U.S. 977 (1974) 11

STATUTES:

Title 18 U.S.C. §201(c) 1

Title 18 U.S.C §371 1

Title 28 U.S.C. §1254(1) 1

MISCELLANEOUS: Page

American Bar Association's "Standards Relating to the Administration of Justice: Free Press and Fair Trial" 12

William O. Douglas, Almanac of Liberty, 1954 .. 9

The petitioner, Alfred Carpentier, petitions for a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

OPINIONS IN THE COURTS BELOW

There were no formal opinions in the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, which was the trial court. The opinion of the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit affirmed the conviction of the petitioner and is set forth in Appendix A.

GROUNDS ON WHICH JURISDICTION IS INVOKED

The judgment of the Court of Appeals was handed down on September 20, 1982 and was entered on the same date. Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court to review the judgment in question by 28 U.S.C. §1254(1).

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND STATUTES INVOLVED

The due process clause of the Constitution of the United States is not set out herein. Pertinent portions of Title 18 U.S.C. §§201(c) and 371 are set forth in Appendix B, *infra*.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This is an ABSCAM case. The petitioner, Alfred Carpentier, a businessman and a beefalo cattle farmer, charged in a three count indictment, was convicted of

charges relating to conflict of interest and conspiracy to commit bribery and was acquitted on a charge relating to the substantive crime of bribery after a jury trial. He was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of four years and a fine of $5,000.00 on the conspiracy count and to a term of imprisonment of two years, which term was suspended, and an additional fine of $5,000.00 on the conflict of interest count. Execution of sentence was stayed pending the appeal. The Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit affirmed the conviction.

Some time early in 1978, the United States Department of Justice set into operation what has become known as the "ABSCAM" investigation. The chief undercover operative for the Government was one Melvin Weinberg, a lifelong and convicted "con" man.[1] The original purpose of ABSCAM was to recover stolen paintings and certificates of deposit. It evolved, its scope expanding to include investigation of organized crime in Atlantic City, and, eventually, to ensnare corruptible politicians. The Government was now in the business of manufacturing crime; Weinberg, using the lure of hundreds of millions of dollars of Arab oil money, sought to entice various individuals to cross over the line from the legitimate to the illegal.

In the course of the operation of the ABSCAM scheme of things, Weinberg had promised to the petitioner, Alfred Carpentier, at one point, a $40,000,000.00 commission; he also continually led the petitioner on

1. The word "ABSCAM" was coined by Melvin Weinberg and derives from the first two letters of Abdul Enterprises, Ltd., a fictitious Middle Eastern business owned by two fictitious, wealthy Arab sheiks and which served as a front for the Government operation, and the word "scam", a slang expression generally used as meaning a confidence game or swindle. *See, United States* v. *Meyers*, 635 F.2d 932 (2d Cir. 1980).

with the false promise that the Arabs would buy his farm, for which petitioner had been asking a purchase price of $1,500,000.00, for $5,000,000.00.

Weinberg had relatively free reign and was unsupervised at least half of the time he was engaged in ABSCAM. In his own words, he "played by ear" much of the time. He even made decisions when to record conversations and meetings with individuals who later became ABSCAM defendants. In many instances, the FBI had to rely on Weinberg's representation as to what occurred, if he, indeed, chose to tell them at all about conversations and meetings he did not record.

In December of 1978, petitioner and his then business attorney were introduced to Melvin Weinberg by a New York bank executive. Carpentier presented a number of legitimate business deals to Weinberg for the investment of Arab money. These deals were put aside and left open by Weinberg who suggested to the petitioner that the Arabs would be more interested in deals that were not quite so legitimate.

In May of 1979, petitioner introduced a United States customs officer to Weinberg and undercover FBI agents to aid one of the "sheiks" with an immigration problem. While there were conversations in which the petitioner participated which involved the possibility of the immigration agent, Carpentier, Weinberg and another individual being paid for the agent rendering services to the sheik, the petitioner was led to believe, eventually, by Weinberg, FBI agents and the immigration agent that no service in this regard would actually be rendered by the immigration official in behalf of the sheik. A corrupt scheme was, in fact, finally developed by the immigration official, Weinberg and an undercover FBI agent to bring an Irish national, as a favor to one of the sheiks, into this country. The immigration

official was to receive payment for rendering such a service, and partial payment was made to him. It is clear petitioner Carpentier knew nothing of this corrupt scheme and received no payment in this regard.[2]

Prior to commencement of trial and three times during the course of the trial, the petitioner moved for a severance from his co-defendant (the immigration official) on the basis of the fact that the co-defendant's defense was antagonistic to the petitioner. Prejudicial joinder and misjoinder were claimed. The co-defendant's defense was basically that he had no criminal intent, he was merely investigating the "investigators" and petitioner, Alfred Carpentier. The co-defendant's defense implied accusations of Carpentier and, when this co-defendant testified on his own behalf, he made actual and specific accusations of corrupt and illegal activities of the petitioner. The trial court denied the motions each time they were made.

Previous to trial, a motion to dismiss the indictment, based on pretrial publicity, was made on behalf of the co-defendant and joined in by the petitioner. It was not so much that there was unfavorable publicity directly involving the petitioner; the more important aspect of the publicity related to the "leaks" of the ABSCAM investigation to the media from within the Department of Justice and the wide-spread coverage of

---

2. The opinion of the Court of Appeals in its statement of facts gives the wrong impression in this regard. The facts addressed by the Court relating to the corrupt scheme deal only with the immigration official; in reading the opinion, one might wrongly assume Carpentier was aware of the scheme also. The $500.00 received by Carpentier from the undercover FBI agent related to a partial payment being made for reimbursement of expenses incurred by the petitioner during the course of his seeking to do other business with Weinberg and the "Arabs."

the whole ABSCAM episode. This tended to taint anyone who was charged as a result of the ABSCAM investigation.

Prior to commencement of trial and three times during the course of the trial, the petitioner moved for a severance from his co-defendant (the immigration official) on the basis of the fact that the co-defendant's defense was antagonistic to the petitioner. Prejudicial joinder and misjoinder were claimed. The co-defendant's defense was basically that he had no criminal intent, he was merely investigating the "investigators" and petitioner, Alfred Carpentier. The co-defendant's defense implied accusations of Carpentier and, when this co-defendant testified on his own behalf, he made actual and specific accusations of corrupt and illegal activities of the petitioner. The trial court denied the motions each time they were made.

Previous to trial, a motion to dismiss the indictment, based on pretrial publicity, was made on behalf of the co-defendant and joined in by the petitioner. It was not so much that there was unfavorable publicity directly involving the petitioner; the more important aspect of the publicity related to the "leaks" of the ABSCAM investigation to the media from within the Department of Justice and the wide-spread coverage of the whole ABSCAM episode. This tended to taint anyone who was charged as a result of the ABSCAM investigation.

On appeal from the judgment of the trial court, the court of appeals affirmed petitioner's convictions on the two counts stated above. The court held that the facts in petitioner's case fell "far short of indicating conduct that would violate [his] rights pursuant to the due process clause" and that the ABSCAM operation, in this case, did not rise to the level of outrageous overinvolvement that could bar a criminal conviction (App. A, 11a, 12a).

The appeals court also held that having failed to raise the defense of entrapment below, petitioner was precluded from raising it on appeal and that, at any rate, the record indicated petitioner was predisposed to commit the crimes with which he was charged (App. A, 12a-13a). That court also found that the district court judge did not abuse his discretion in denying petitioner's motions to sever and in the manner in which the judge conducted jury selection in the case.

REASONS FOR THE ALLOWANCE OF THE WRIT

The writ should be allowed in this case because the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit has rendered a decision which is in conflict with decisions of other federal courts, including decisions of the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Further, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit has decided certain important questions of federal law which have not been, but should be, settled by this Court.

1. The entire ABSCAM operation presents serious and sensitive public policy issues. *United States v. Meyers, supra*, at 934. As was specifically pointed out by the court of appeals in the petitioner's case, his "attack on the investigative procedures employed in ABSCAM raises substantial questions about the proper role of law enforcement in our society." (App. A, 15a). This Court has indicated on various occasions that those investigative procedures may at times become so intrusive as to violate an individual's due process rights, irrespective of the person's guilt or innocence and without regard to his predisposition to commit the offense with which he is charged. *United States v. Russell*, 411 U.S. 423; *Olmstead v. United States*, 227 U.S. 438.

Governmental manufacture of crime is fundamentally at odds with established principles of fair play and

due process. Police overinvolvement in the creation of crime in the ABSCAM operation encroached on the rights of all the individuals charged as a result of that covert operation. As Justice Brandeis stated:

> "In a government of laws, existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the laws scrupulously. Our government is the potent, the omnipresent teacher. For good or for ill, it teaches the whole people by its example. Crime is contagious. If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; and invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy. To declare in the administration of the criminal law the end justifies the means—to declare that the government may commit crimes in order to secure the conviction of a private criminal—would bring terrible retribution. Against that pernicious doctrine this Court should resolutely set its face. *Olmstead v. United States, supra*, at 484-85.

The function of law enforcement is the prevention of crime and the apprehension of criminals. That function should not include the manufacturing of crime. *Sherman v. United States*, 356 U.S. 369 (1958); *Sorrells v. United States*, 287 U.S. 435 (1932).

While this Court has said, by plurality opinion, that police overinvolvement should not necessarily be a bar to conviction where the defendant was predisposed to commit the crime charged, specific standards to be applied to enable one to determine when such overinvolvement should serve as a bar or reach "a demonstrable level of outrageousness" were not enumerated. *Hampton v. United States*, 425 U.S. 484 (1976). The case at bar, and all the so-called ABSCAM cases, presents an opportunity to this Court to set such standards.

The Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has held that where the Government's tactics reach a level of being creative rather than reactive in nature, where the criminal activity was initiated by the Government and no criminal enterprise had previously existed, conviction should be barred. *United States v. Twigg*, 588 F.2d 373 (3rd Cir. 1978). Support for this reasoning may be found in other circuits. *United States v. Puma*, 548 F.2d 508 (5th Cir. 1977); *United States v. Reifsteck*, 535 F.2d 1030 (8th Cir. 1976); *Greene v. United States*, 454 F.2d 783 (9th Cir. 1971).

The indictment and conviction obtained in petitioner's case, as in the other ABSCAM cases, was the product of instigation by the Government. Under the fundamental fairness and totality of circumstances approach, the ABSCAM operation exceeded the police power of the federal Government. The line between lawful subterfuge and excessive governmental involvement has been crossed in this case and all the ABSCAM prosecutions, in violation of the due process clause of the Constitution.

As Judge Bryant has stated:

> "Governmental manufacture of crime . . . is as odious, and as prejudicial to a target's rights, as is the governmental snaring of the 'unwary innocent' which we term entrapment." *United States v. Richard Kelly*, Slip Op., filed May 13, 1982 at 24.

This is particularly true where the use of the primary operative, the informant (Melvin Weinberg) was, to a good extent, uncontrolled, or, at least, lacking in adequate controls. Such use of someone like Weinberg tends to corrupt the truth-seeking process. *Brown v. United States*, 602 F.2d 1073 (2d Cir. 1979). Judge Fullam found that Weinberg "represented the archetypical, amoral, fast-buck artist." *United States v. Jannotti*, 501 F.2d 1183 at 1193 (E.D.Pa. 1980). It is submitted that

the conduct of Weinberg in the context of this and all the ABSCAM cases produced a substantial danger of unreliability and was fundamentally unfair resulting in a breach of the due process rights of all the individual "targets."

The flow of publicity and the Government's conduct in this regard also violated the due process rights of the petitioner and others. The publicity in the ABSCAM cases was largely Government-inspired. This has been determined by the investigation of publicity leaks conducted by the Department of Justice. The Blumenthal Report concluded that the leaks were of a scope and magnitude unprecedented in Department of Justice history. Prosecution-inspired publicity is an abuse of the judicial system and must be held to close scrutiny by the courts. The spate of adverse publicity "poisoned the well" for ABSCAM targets and defendants, petitioner included. This publicity may well have prejudiced society in general (and jurors in particular) against anyone charged with an ABSCAM-based crime. A specific showing of prejudice is not necessary where there is a reasonable possibility of prejudice or prejudice can be assumed by the totality of the circumstances. *Murphy v. Florida*, 421 U.S. 794 (1975).

As Justice William O. Douglas has said, "The greatest battles for liberty have, indeed, been fought over the procedure which police and prosecutors may use." William O. Douglas, *Almanac of Liberty*, 1954. The ABSCAM investigations may be the greatest battlefield of all; the procedures employed by law enforcement on that battlefield warrant review of this Court.

2. The ABSCAM operation has dramatized a crucial question about all undercover police activities. Why are they not subject to a judicial warrant so that there can be some monitoring by an impartial magistrate or judge? The intrusion of an undercover agent is much

more extensive than an ordinary search. It can be continuous, long-term and unlimited. The undercover agent is a human version of an electronic eavesdropping device. Before such an electronic device is used, a warrant is required; the placement of an undercover agent into an individual's private life should also require such a warrant. Indeed, the undercover agent, set into place without a warrant and in the absence of evidence that a particular crime has been or is about to be committed, is an intrusive, general search.

3. Entrapment occurs when a person not otherwise predisposed to commit a criminal act is induced by Government agents to commit such an act. *Sorrells v. United States*, *supra*. Indicia of inducement include persuasion of an individual to participate in the commission of a criminal act, *Sherman v. United States*, *supra*, at 373; providing the instrumentalities for the commission of the crime, *United States v. Russell*, *supra*, at 431; and the creation and instigation of the crime, *Sorrells v. United States*, *supra*, at 440-441. Further, evidence at trial showed that petitioner was not aware of the particular corrupt scheme devised by the co-defendant and the Government operatives. More important, however, is the fact of the overall atmosphere created by the ABSCAM operation which, with particular reference to the petitioner, included using the inducement of a $40,000,000 commission and the purchase of petitioner's farm at a price of more than three times the value of the farm.

Melvin Weinberg, the chief Government operative, encouraged various persons to present illegitimate deals to him. Persons, like the petitioner, induced by vast sums of money, eventually discussed such deals with Weinberg and became "targets" of ABSCAM. Evidence of the inducements put before the petitioner by the Government were brought out in both the Government's case and the

petitioner's defense case. Once such inducement was established *prima facie*, the burden should then have been upon the prosecution to prove that the petitioner was ready and willing, without persuasion, to engage in criminal conduct. The prosecution, at trial of petitioner's case, did not prove the requisite propensity of the petitioner. It is maintained that the Government was bound to do this even in light of the fact that the petitioner did not raise the specific defense of entrapment. Failure to establish this propensity of the petitioner is sufficient to bar his conviction.

4. Prior to the commencement of trial and on three occasions during the course of the trial, petitioner moved for severance from his co-defendant based on misjoinder of defendants. The joinder of the defendants in one trial was unduly prejudicial because petitioner's co-defendant's defense was totally antagonistic to the defense and interests of the petitioner. In the already sensitized atmosphere of an ABSCAM prosecution, such a claim takes on even greater significance.

It was an abuse of discretion of the trial court to refuse to grant the motion for severance when it was clear that the theory of the co-defendant's defense was in direct conflict with petitioner's defense. A major premise of petitioner's co-defendant's defense was that he was investigating the petitioner; such a defense created a danger that the jury would unjustifiably infer that this conflict alone demonstrated that both defendants were guilty. In short, it created a situation where the jury was more likely to find guilt on the part of the petitioner Carpentier. A separate trial of the petitioner would have better secured a fair trial. *See generally, United States v. Wilson*, 500 F.2d 715 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 420 U.S. 977 (1974); *United States v. Johnson*, 478 F.2d 1129 (5th Cir. 1973).

5. As set forth above, the publicity in this case was extraordinary. Under the circumstances, there should have been a liberal use of individualized *in camera voir dire* in this case and all the ABSCAM cases. Such a view is expressed in the American Bar Association's "Standards Relating to the Administration of Justice: Free Press and Fair Trial."

CONCLUSION

The petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted.

Dated: November 15, 1982

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. PASCARELLA,
Attorney for Petitioner,
1301 Franklin Avenue,
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-1134

APPENDIX A

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT
No. 1266—AUGUST TERM, 1981

(Argued June 15, 1982 Decided September 20, 1982)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

vs.

ALFRED CARPENTIER,

Defendant-Appellant.

Before:

NEWMAN AND PIERCE, *Circuit Judges,*
and KNAPP, *District Judge.**

Appeal from a judgment of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, Mark A. Costantino, *District Judge,* entered after a jury trial. Appellant was convicted of conspiracy to commit bribery in violation of 18 U.S.C. §371 and conflict of interest in violation of 18 U.S.C. §203(a).

Affirmed.

---

* The Honorable Whitman Knapp of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, sitting by designation.

JAMES A. PASCARELLA, Garden City, N.Y., *for defendant-appellant.*

LAURA A. BREVETTI, Special Attorney, Eastern District of New York (Edward R. Korman, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Edward A. McDonald, Attorney-in-Charge, Department of Justice, Organized Crime Strike Force, Eastern District of New York, Lawrence H. Sharf, Special Attorney, Eastern District of New York, Brooklyn, N.Y., of counsel) *for Plaintiff-Appellee.*

PIERCE, *Circuit Judge:*

Among those caught in the sweep of the ABSCAM net was appellant Alfred Carpentier.[1] ABSCAM was a Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") undercover operation which came into existence during the summer of 1978. The initial goal of ABSCAM was the recovery of stolen property, particularly securities and certificates of deposit. By the end of 1978, however, the focus of the operation had been turned towards the growing presence of organized crime in Atlantic City. This aspect of the operation led in turn to the investigations into political and public corruption which thrust ABSCAM into national prominence.

ABSCAM operated behind a cover organization, Abdul Enterprises, which purportedly represented the in-

---

1. ABSCAM is an acronym taken from the "first two letters of 'Abdul Enterprises Ltd.,' the name given to the fictitious Middle Eastern business that the undercover agents invented for the purposes of the investigation that led to [this indictment] and the word 'scam,' a slang expression, perhaps derived from 'scheme' meaning a confidence game or swindle. Webster's New World Dictionary 1270 (2d college ed. 1978)." *United States v. Myers*, 635 F.2d 932, 934 n.1 (2d Cir.) *cert. denied*, 449 U.S. 956 (1980).

vestment interests in the United States of two Arab sheiks, Kamad Abdul Rahman and Yassir Habib. These sheiks were fictitious characters. In fact, at no time were any Arabs connected with Abdul Enterprises.[2] The undercover agents who were involved with ABSCAM told various individuals that the sheiks had supplied Abdul Enterprises with $400 million for the purpose of investment into various ventures. This money was supposedly on deposit at the Chase Manhattan Bank.[3]

In 1978 Carpentier was apparently the owner of the Beefalo Cattle and Land Company ("Beefalo"), a farm in upstate New York. Sometime during the latter part of 1978, a banker friend of Carpentier introduced him to Melvin Weinberg, a self-confessed confidence man who worked as a paid consultant in the ABSCAM operation. According to the testimony of both Weinberg and FBI Agent Anthony Amoroso, it seems apparent that Carpentier's initial aim with regard to Abdul Enterprises, at least in part, was to persuade the "officers" of the organization to invest in Beefalo.

On March 23, 1979, at Weinberg's invitation, Carpentier attended a party in Florida on the yacht "Left Hand," which was employed by the FBI in connection with its ABSCAM activities. At that party, Carpentier told Weinberg and FBI Agent Anthony Amoroso[4] that he was able to obtain passports and green cards[5] through

2. Weinberg testified that Kamad Abdul Rahman was actually the name of a Lebanese businessman and friend. Weinberg suggested the use of the name in conjunction with ABSCAM.

3. FBI Agent Anthony Amoroso testified that Abdul Enterprises had an arrangement with the bank with respect to verification of this representation.

4. For the purposes of his role as president of Abdul Enterprises, Amoroso used the cover name Tony DeVito.

5. A "green card" is a document which evidences an alien's permanent residence status in the United States.

two employees of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service ("INS"), Alexander A. Alexandro, Sr. and his son Alexander, Jr.[6]

This information was conveyed to John Good, Amoroso's superior, and the FBI decided to attempt to arrange a meeting, via Carpentier, between the agents and Alexandro, Jr. (hereinafter "Alexandro"). Weinberg telephoned Carpentier and asked him to meet with himself and Amoroso at the Abdul Enterprises offices in Holbrook, Long Island.[7] This meeting, at which Carpentier, Weinberg, Amoroso and Agent Carol DeRosa were present, was taped. During the meeting, Weinberg and Amoroso explained to Carpentier that they wished to avail themselves of Alexandro's aid in facilitating the illegal entry into the United States of Thomas Foley, an "Irish kid" who was the son of a friend of one of the "Arabs."[8]

The transcript of the tape of the May 30th meeting shows that Carpentier was aware that Alexandro was to be paid for obtaining a green card for Foley: at one point Carpentier stated, "[c]an you get ten grand from [Foley]? By the way, some people pay 50 to 100 grand for

---

6. Alexandro, Sr., was apparently working at the INS's Honolulu, Hawaii, office when the events relevant to the present case occurred. The record does not indicate that Alexandro, Sr., was a target of the ABSCAM investigation or that he was in any way involved with the present matter.

7. It is not entirely clear from the record whether the office was in Holbrook or in Hauppauge, Long Island. However, Amoroso stated that the office was located in Holbrook.

8. During the May 30th meeting, Carpentier asked if Foley was a citizen of Northern Ireland or the Irish Free State. Amoroso purported not to know. At a later time, Amoroso told Alexandro that Foley was an Irish citizen living in Dublin. At trial, Amoroso testified that Foley was a real person related in some fashion to Agent Good. However, it is not clear whether Foley was actually a citizen or resident of Ireland.

this green card, ya know." He assured Amoroso that Alexandro was a "nice guy" who would not "rob" Amoroso in the transaction. Amoroso gave Carpentier $500 for "expenses," and Carpentier stated that Amoroso was to give him his "usual ten percent."

Carpentier contacted Alexandro and on the following day, May 31, 1979, Alexandro met with Carpentier, Amoroso and Weinberg at the Colon[ie] Hill Hotel on Long Island. During this meeting, which was taped, various ways and means of providing Foley with a green card were discussed. Carpentier participated actively in the discussion: at one point, when they were considering the possibility of providing Foley with a corporate sponsor, Carpentier stated that "Beefalo Cattle and Land will hire him." By the end of the meeting, Alexandro had indicated his willingness to use his position to provide Foley with a green card.

During the subsequent three months, an elaborate scheme was concocted for the purpose of bringng Foley illegally into the United States. It was ultimately decided that the best plan would be to arrange a sham marriage between Foley and an American woman. The two would divorce once Foley was safely established as a resident of the United States. Alexandro arranged for all necessary papers and went so far as to find a young woman who was willing to become Foley's wife. Alexandro was to personally conduct Foley through customs and immigration. The final price for the entire package was $15,000. Amoroso gave Alexandro a $2,000 downpayment on this sum.

During the course of planning the scheme, at least two telephone calls, on June 19th and on June 29th, were made by Carpentier to Weinberg. These calls, which Weinberg taped, were for the purpose of coordinating arrangements between Amoroso and Alexandro. In addi-

tion, several telephone calls between Alexandro and Amoroso were taped, and, ultimately, a meeting at the International Hotel at New York's Kennedy Airport was videotaped. Only Alexandro, Amoroso and Weinberg were present at this meeting. The videotape and the audio tapes of the various meetings and telephone calls discussed herein were admitted into evidence against each defendant at the subsequent trial of Alexandro and Carpentier.

On March 3, 1980, an Eastern District of New York grand jury indicted both Carpentier and Alexandro on each of three counts: (1) conspiracy to receive bribes in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371;[9] (2) receiving bribes in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 201(c);[10] and (3) conflict of interest in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 203(a).[11] They were

---

9. 18 U.S.C. § 371 provides in pertinent part that:

[i]f two or more persons conspire either to commit any offense against the United States, or to defraud the United States, or any agency thereof in any manner or for any purpose, and one or more of such persons do any act to effect the object of such conspiracy, each shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

10. 18 U.S.C. § 201(c) provides that:

[w]hoever, being a public official . . . directly or indirectly, corruptly asks, demands, exacts, solicits, seeks, accepts, receives, or agrees to receive anything of value for himself or for any other person or entity, in return for: (1) being influenced in his performance of any official act; or (2) being influenced to commit or aid in committing, or to collude in, or allow, any fraud, or make opportunity for the commission of any fraud, on the United States; or (3) being induced to do or omit to do any act in violation of his official duty . . . (c) [s]hall be fined not more than $20,000 or three times the monetary equivalent of the thing of value, whichever is greater, or imprisoned for not more than fifteen years, or both, and may be disqualified from holding any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

11. 18 U.S.C. § 203 provides in pertinent part that:

(a) [w]hoever, otherwise than as provided by law for the proper discharge of official duties, directly or indirectly receives or agrees

tried jointly by a jury before Federal District Judge Mark A. Costantino. Carpentier was convicted on the charges in counts one and three and acquitted of bribery as charged in count two. Alexandro was convicted on all three counts.[12] Carpentier was sentenced to four years imprisonment and fined $5000 on the first count and to two years imprisonment and an additional $5000 fine on the third count. Execution of the judgment of imprisonment imposed on count three was suspended. Carpentier timely appealed the judgment of conviction against him to this Court.

For the reasons set forth hereinbelow, we affirm.

DISCUSSION

Carpentier presents four arguments on appeal: (1) the government's conduct in the ABSCAM investigation as it related to this case was so intrusive that it violated appellant's due process rights under the fifth amendment; (2) appellant was entrapped "as a matter of law"; (3) the trial judge abused his discretion by refusing to sever the trial of appellant from that of Alexandro; and (4) the trial judge committed reversible error when he refused to permit an individualized *in camera voir dire* of prospective jurors. These points shall be considered *seriatim*.

---

to receive, or asks, demands, solicits, or seeks, any compensation for any services rendered or to be rendered either by himself or another— . . . (2) at a time when he is an officer or employee of the United States in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government, or in any agency of the United States, . . . Shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned for not more than two years, or both; and shall be incapable of holding any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States.

12. Alexandro appealed to this Court and an opinion affirming his conviction was filed on March 18, 1982. This opinion is reported at 675 F.2d 34 (2d Cir. 1982).

I

Carpentier's main argument on appeal is that the government's conduct in this case was "so outrageous that due process principles . . . absolutely bar the government from invoking judicial processes to obtain a conviction." *United States v. Russell*, 411 U.S. 423, 431-32 (1973). In his brief on appeal, Carpentier points to what he describes as the "uncontrolled" use of the "archetypical, amoral, fast-buck artist" Melvin Weinberg, quoting *United States v. Jannotti*, 501 F. Supp. 1182, 1193 (E.D. Pa. 1980), *rev'd*, 673 F.2d 578 (3d Cir. 1981) (*en banc*), *cert. denied*, __ U.S. __, 102 S. Ct. 2906 (1982),[13] as an offense against the principles of due process. He also maintains that a government investigation becomes "outrageous" when, as he sees it, it manufactures crime rather than attempts to prevent or arrest criminal behavior.

We note at the outset that, as Justice Powell stated in his concurrence in *Hampton v. United States*, 425 U.S. 484 (1976), "the cases, if any, in which proof of predis-

---

13. The entire thrust of defense counsels' cross-examination of Weinberg at trial as to discredit him and to show that he operated within ABSCAM without substantial supervision from the FBI. During cross-examination, Weinberg testified that he had been a confidence man for 20-25 years. He admitted to committing "swindles" in Europe and South America as well as in the United States. Weinberg also testified that he had done informant work for the FBI since the mid-1960s, and that he had continued to swindle people while so employed. In response to defense counsel's questions, he also indicated that he had a good deal of discretion regarding when he would tape conversations with potential targets of the investigation. Additionally, he apparently had some discretion in selecting those targets.

On direct examination, the government's attorney elicited from Weinberg that in 1977 he had pleaded guilty to an indictment for mail fraud and wire fraud in the Federal District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. He received probation for the offense. Weinberg testified that at no other time in his career had he been convicted of a crime.

position is not dispositive will be rare. Police overinvolvement in crime would have to reach a demonstrable level of outrageousness before it could bar conviction." *Id.* at 495 n.7 (Powell, J., concurring). This is not such a case.

This Court has consistently rejected the defense urged here in a variety of contexts. In *United States v. Nunez-Rios*, 622 F.2d 1093 (2d Cir. 1980), a Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") informant had supplied defendants with a quantity of cocaine which they in turn sold to a DEA agent. There was little question of defendants' predisposition to commit the crime; the government's involvement was limited to supplying them with the means. The Court stated that these "facts fall far short of the kind of outrageous conduct which would violate defendant's due process rights." *Id.* at 1097.

In *United States v. Corcione*, 592 F.2d 111 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 440 U.S. 975, 985 (1979), government agents supplied heroin to the defendants while they were in Thailand, and the government assisted in the plans for its transportation to and sale in the United States. This Court again held that this did not rise to the level of outrageousness contemplated in *Russell*.

Appellant relies on *United States v. Archer*, 486 F.2d 670 (2d Cir. 1973), as support for his due process claim. In *Archer*, undercover officers told lies to police officials, grand jurors and judges during the course of their investigation into official corruption. Judge Friendly indicated strong disapproval of the agents' behavior in his opinion reversing defendants' convictions, and he further indicated that the case might be one in which due process grounds would alone require reversal. However, since the Court had determined that the convictions should be reversed for lack of evidence of actionable interstate telephone calls, the due process question was left for resolution at another time. *Id.* at 677.

After Archer's federal indictment was dismissed, he was indicted by the State of New York for state crimes similar to those in the federal indictment. After conviction and unsuccessful appeals through the New York courts, Archer returned to this Court via the federal habeas corpus route. Judge Friendly again wrote for the Court in *Archer v. Commissioner of Correction*, 646 F.2d 44 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied*, __ U.S. __, 102 S. Ct. 291 (1981). There, the Court held that with respect to "due process applicable to the states," the governmental conduct at issue was not "so outrageous as to constitute a denial of due process." *Id.* at 46-47.

Carpentier also relies on the district court opinion in *United States v. Jannotti*, *supra*. At issue therein was the ABSCAM investigation, and the conduct of Melvin Weinberg was closely scrutinized by the district court in dismissing the indictment. However, in a thorough opinion carefully analyzing claims quite similar to those made here, the Third Circuit, *en banc*, reinstated the convictions. Cautioning that "[w]e must necessarily exercise scrupulous restraint before we denounce law enforcement conduct as constitutionally unacceptable," *Id.* at 607, the court noted that " '[t]he limitations of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment come into play only when the Government activity violates some protected right of the *defendant*.' " *Id.* at 610 (quoting *United States v. Hampton*, *supra*, 425 U.S. at 490 (emphasis in original)).

Undercover operations for the purpose of exposing bribery among public officials certainly are not *per se* unconstitutional. *United States v. Myers*, 635 F.2d 932, 939 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 449 U.S. 956 (1980). (*Myers* also arose from the ABSCAM investigation. However, the due process issue presented here was not directly before the Court in that case.) In any event, Carpentier's appeal in the due process issue must be assessed in terms

of this Court's decision in *United States v. Alexandro*, 675 F.2d 34 (2d Cir. 1982). There, reviewing the same record on appeal as is before us in this case, we considered facts substantially similar to those which underlie the due process claim made on the present appeal. We find here, as we noted therein, that Carpentier "initiated the fraudulent scheme to obtain the green card for Foley." *Id.* at 41. We also find here, as we found in Alexandro's case, that the facts presented on this appeal fall "far short of indicating conduct that would violate [appellant's] rights pursuant to the due process clause." *Id.* at 40.

It is clear that Alexandro's claim of due process violation, while ultimately found to be lacking, was if anything stronger than is Carpentier's: Alexandro could at least claim that the contact with him regarding the scheme was initiated at the behest of the government; Carpentier, on the other hand, initiated the suggestion that he could obtain false green cards.

To recapitulate, the government's behavior with respect to Carpentier was as follows: he was invited to a party on a yacht in Florida; while there, he volunteered, apparently without solicitation, that he could put interested persons in contact with a source of illegal green cards and passports; when asked, he did in fact act as a go-between in a scheme to obtain an illegal green card. The government merely followed up on his own proposal of criminal activity.

As to whether other aspects of the ABSCAM operation rose to the level of outrageous overinvolvement that could bar a criminal conviction is not a question that need be answered by the Court in this case. *See United States v. Hampton*, *supra*, 425 U.S. at 490; *United States v. Myers*, No. 81-1342 (2d Cir. Sept. 3, 1982); *United States v. Jannotti*, *supra*, 673 F.2d at 610. It simply did not rise to that level here.

Appellant claims that he is entitled to have the judgment of conviction against him reversed "as a matter of law" because the government entrapped him. This claim is made despite an acknowledgement by appellant that he did not raise the defense of entrapment at the trial level.

Having failed to raise the defense of entrapment below, appellant is precluded from raising it here. *United States v. Myers*, No. 81-1342 (2d Cir. Sept. 3, 1982); *United States v. Valencia*, 645 F.2d 1158, 1172 (2d Cir. 1980); *United States v. Bishop*, 367 F.2d 806, 809 (2d Cir. 1966). When entrapment is asserted as a defense, the government is entitled to notice of the proposed defense so that it may offer evidence of predisposition in rebuttal. *United States v. Bishop*, *supra*, 367 F.2d at 809.

Furthermore, even if we were to reach the substantive question, the record demonstrates that appellant was predisposed to commit the crimes for which he was indicted and convicted, thereby rendering any entrapment claim unmeritorious, since "[i]t is only when the Government's deception actually implants the criminal design in the mind of the defendant that the defense of entrapment comes into play." *United States v. Russell*, *supra*, 423 U.S. at 436.

III

Carpentier moved for a severance of his trial from that of Alexandro's on one occasion before trial and on three separate occasions thereafter. These motions were denied. Carpentier now claims that because of Alexandro's defense strategy, this failure to grant him a severance denied him a fair trial.

Co-defendant Alexandro's defense at trial was that he pretended to go along with the illegal green card scheme in order to carry out his own investigation into corruption. Carpentier asserts that this defense was directly in conflict with his own because, for reasons not fully made clear, "[i]f the jury were to acquit appellant Carpentier, they had to disregard Alexandro's defense and find [Alexandro] guilty," (In fact, the jury did convict Alexandro as charged on all three counts. See footnote 12, *supra*).

Appellant concedes that the standard for appellate review of a denial of a motion to sever made pursuant to Rule 14 of the Fed. R. Crim. P. is "an abuse of discretion" on the part of the trial judge. In order to meet his "extremely difficult burden of showing on appeal that the lower court's action [of refusing to grant a motion to sever] was an abuse of discretion," defendant must demonstrate that there was "substantial prejudice" resulting from the denial of the motion. *United States v. Werner*, 620 F.2d 922, 928 (2d Cir. 1980). A certain amount of prejudice to a defendant is regarded as acceptable given the judicial economies that result from joinder. *Id.* at 929.

A simple showing of some antagonism between defendants' theories of defense does not require severance. "[T]he defense of a defendant reaches a level of antagonism [with respect to the defense of a co-defendant] that compels severance of that defendant, if the jury, in order to believe the core of testimony offered on behalf of that defendant, must necessarily disbelieve the testimony offered on behalf of his co-defendant." *United States v. Berkowitz*, 662 F.2d 1127, 1134 (5th Cir. 1981).

It is difficult to see how Alexandro's defense that he was himself ferreting out corruption prejudiced Carpentier in the least; it certainly failed to rise to the standard enunciated by the *Berkowitz* court. Further, there is no

necessary incompatability between Alexandro's defense and that offered by Carpentier, namely that the latter was simply spending time with Weinberg and Amoroso in hopes of interesting the "sheik" in purchasing or investing in his Beefalo Cattle and Land Company.

The most damaging evidence against both Carpentier and Alexandro consisted of the taped conversations and the testimony of Weinberg and Amoroso. With regard to Carpentier, this evidence, as noted, showed Carpentier to have first suggested the possibility of obtaining illegal green cards to the undercover agents. The tapes demonstrated that he was a willing participant in arranging a meeting between Alexandro and the agents, and in helping to formulate the illegal green card scheme thereafter. Alexandro's defense did not exacerbate the impact of that evidence. There appears to be no reason why the jury could not have believed Alexandro's story and yet still have found that Carpentier lacked the requisite intent to commit the crimes with which he was charged. The simple fact is that both Carpentier and Alexandro were convicted on the basis of an abundance of evidence presented as to each defendant. We conclude that the district judge did not abuse his discretion in denying appellant's motions to sever.

CONCLUSION

Appellant Carpentier's attack on the investigative procedures employed in ABSCAM raises substantial questions about the proper role of law enforcement in our society. As discussed herein, the Supreme Court has on more than one occasion indicated that those procedures may at times become so intrusive as to violate an individual's due process rights, irrespective of the person's guilt or innocence, and without regard to his predisposition to commit the offense with which he is charged.

ABSCAM has received intense publicity since the investigation first reached the public eye. We must be careful not to lose sight of the specific facts of this case when viewing them in the broader context of ABSCAM. As the Supreme Court has stated, the courts may not employ the principles of due process or entrapment as a "veto over law enforcement practices" of which they may or may not approve. *United States v. Russell, supra,* 411 U.S. at 435.

We find that the government's actions with reference to appellant were not so outrageously intrusive as to violate his rights to due process. In addition, appellant's entrapment claim is without merit, and the trial judge did not abuse his discretion by denying the motions to sever, or by the manner in which he conducted the jury selection process.

Affirmed.

APPENDIX B
RELEVANT STATUTORY PROVISIONS

1. Title 28 U.S.C. §1254. Courts of appeals; certiorari; appeal; certified questions

Cases in the courts of appeals may be reviewed by the Supreme Court by the ollowing methods:

(1) By writ of certiorari granted upon the petition of any party to any civil or criminal case, before or after rendition of judgment or decree;

(2) By appeal by a party relying on a State statute held by a court of appeals to be invalid as repugnant to the Constitution, treaties or laws of the United States, but such appeal shall preclude review by writ of certiorari at the instance of such appellant, and the review on appeal shall be restricted to the Federal questions presented;

(3) By certification at any time by a court of appeals of any question of law in any civil or criminal case as to which instructions are desired, and upon such certification the Supreme Court may give binding instructions or require the entire record to be sent up for decision of the entire matter in controversy. (June 25, 1948, c. 646, §1, 62 Stat. 928.)

2. Title 18 U.S.C. §201(c). Bribery of public officials and witnesses

. . . (c) Whoever, being a public official or person selected to be a public official, directly or indirectly, corruptly asks, demands, exacts, solicits, seeks, accepts, receives, or agrees to receive anything of value for himself or for any other person or entity, in return for:

(1) being influenced in his performance of any official act; or

(2) being influenced to commit or aid in committing, or to allow, any fraud, or make opportunity for the commission of any fraud, on the United States; or

(3) being induced to do or omit to do any act in violation of his official duty . . .

3. Title 28 U.S.C. §371. Conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud United States

If two or more persons conspire either to commit any offense against the United States, or to defraud the United States, or any agency thereof in any manner or for any purpose, and one or more of such persons do any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, each shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

If, however, the offense, the commission of which is the object of the conspiracy, is a misdemeanor only, the punishment for such conspiracy shall not exceed the maximum punishment provided for such misdemeanor. (June 25, 1948, ch 645, §1, 62 Stat. 701.)